

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Response to Amendment

With this Response, no claims are amended, added, or cancelled. Therefore claims 1-9, 20-26 and 35-41 are pending.

The Office has contended that the reply filed on 06/15/06 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because "currently amended claims are directed to a non-elected species 1. Applicant elected species 2 without traverse in the reply filed on 01/09/2006."

The Office's assertions are completely in error and without merit. The Applicants HAVE elected the claims of Species 1 illustrated in Fig. 2, not species 2. The Office is respectfully requested to re-read the species election with regard to this application.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection is without merit and that the amended claims of the previous amendment place all pending claims in condition for examination. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at (208) 342-7310 if such contact would further the examination of the above-referenced application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any deficiencies or overpayments in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date: October 6, 2006

/Robert G. Winkle/

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the below date with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signature: 

Theresa Belland

10/06/06

Date